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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 30, 1998

TO: Ted Hopkins, RMRS, X7652

FROM: *RCW S. M. Nesta*
S. M. Nesta, National Environmental Policy Act, T130C, X6386

SUBJECT: COMPLETED NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
DOCUMENTATION FOR THE HYDROGEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION FOR
IHSSs 121 & 148 - SMN-110-98

Attached is a signed categorical exclusion (RFFO/CX14-98) for the referenced project. Receipt of this document completes the NEPA process and, from a NEPA perspective, the project may proceed. Please inform me of any changes to the project so that this documentation may be reviewed for its continued validity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at X6386 or Trienel Ahearn of LABAT/NEPA at X4399 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Attachment

Distribution:
J. Hill, K-H
K. North, K-H
K. Dorr, K-H
File

FILE COPY

United States Government

Department of Energy

Rocky Flats Field Office

memorandum

DATE:

SEP 24 1998

REPLY TO

ATTN OF:

AMEC:RLG:JCM:03441

SUBJECT:

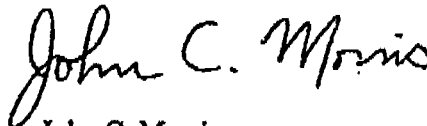
Categorical Exclusion (CX14-98) for Hydrogeological Characterization of Building 123

TO:

S. M. Nesta
National Environmental Policy Act Group
Kaiser-Hill Company, L.L.C.

I am enclosing the approved Categorical Exclusion (CX) for the Hydrogeological Characterization of Building 123, CX14-98.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 966-7198.



John C. Morris
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment

cc w/Att:

J. Legare, AMEC, RFFO
N. Castaneda, ERWM, RFFO
K. Koch, OCC, RFFO

Best Available Copy

DOE NEPA REGULATIONS SUBPART D
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION - RFFO/CX14-98

Proposed Action: Hydrogeologic Characterization

Location: Building 123, Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site,
Golden, CO

Proposed by: U.S. Department of Energy Rocky Flats Field Office (DOE, RFFO)

Description of the Proposed Action:

The Rocky Flats Field Office proposes to install new wells and drill geoprobe borings as needed in support of post-demolition hazardous and radiological site characterization activities required for Individual Hazardous Substance Sites (IHSSs) 121 and 148 and Potential Areas of Contamination (PACs). These activities are designed to accomplish two objectives: 1) prepare an IHSS ranking for prioritizing the site on the Environmental Restoration (ER) Ranking list, and 2) assess the potential impact of decontamination and demolition (D&D) activities on local groundwater quality. Field activities planned are limited to well installation, well development, and initial groundwater sampling activities.

The type of monitoring wells selected for installation are small diameter well points that are suitable for monitoring shallow (<20 foot depth) water bearing zones. These well points will have screens set in the uppermost 10-foot section of the saturated zone to detect for lateral migration of contaminants, based on the apparent limited use of dense non-aqueous phase liquids at the facility and depth limitations of the geoprobe. A screened interval of 6 to 16 feet is selected for all wells to account for seasonal fluctuations in water table depth. Typical well construction materials will consist of 0.75-inch inner diameter, schedule 40 or 80 polyvinyl chloride riser and factory cut (0.010-inch slot width) well screens. Protective casing consisting of 2-inch ID steel riser with locking cap and lock will be set in sackrete to a depth of about 1 foot. Flush-mount protective casings may be required to avoid damage in the heavily trafficked areas around Building 123 and will be installed on a case-by-case basis.

Boreholes will be drilled using push-type techniques (Geoprobe) at all proposed well locations. Soil cores will be recovered continuously in two-foot increments using a 1-inch diameter by 24-inch long stainless steel or lexon-lined California core barrel. Following recovery, cores will be monitored with a Flame Ionization Detector (FID) or a Photoionization Detector (PID) for health and safety purposes. All core boxes will be labeled and transferred to an ER core storage container for archiving following project completion.

Six monitoring well locations have been chosen to monitor groundwater quality associated with Building 123. Two wells will be positioned along the west side of the building to monitor upgradient groundwater quality, and four wells will be positioned along the east side to monitor downgradient groundwater quality.

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Drill cuttings from new wells would be placed in drums or on plastic sheeting as generated. Plastic sheeting would be installed prior to well drilling to control potential spills of drilling rig fluids. Wells installed in Individual Hazardous Substance Sites or east of the Industrial Area would have surficial materials removed to a depth of 2 feet and would be isolated with 16-inch diameter surface casings to prevent downward dispersion of potential surficial contaminants in well bores and groundwater. Water would be withdrawn from the sampling wells on a semi-annual basis in small (e.g., quart) quantities. Samples would be analyzed for their constituents and disposed of in accordance with applicable procedures and regulations.

Categorical Exclusion to be Applied:

B3.1 Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, and radar), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, including the establishment of survey marks; (b) Installation, and operation of field instruments, such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools; (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells; (d) Aquifer response testing; (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment; (f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants; (g) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; (h) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities, including assessment of potential wind energy resources; (i) Sampling of flora or fauna; and (j) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 7.

Justification:

The project consists of siting, operation and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices, including drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells, as provided for in the categorical exclusion.

In addition, in accordance with 10 CFR 1021.410(b), the project (a) fits within the class of actions listed in Appendix B of Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021, (b) exhibits no extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of its environmental effects,

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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION - RFFO/CX14-98

and (c) is not "connected" (per 40 CFR 1508.25[a][1]) to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts (per 40 CFR 1508.25[a][2]), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Further, in accordance with 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, the project would not (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders, (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or (4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion as defined in Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021. Therefore, I approve the categorical exclusion of the proposed action from further NEPA review and documentation.

Date: Sept. 24, 1998

Signature: _____

John C. Morris
John C. Morris

RFFO NEPA Compliance Officer